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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/765,962	01/29/2004	Frank Giesel	2694-0142P	2269
2292	7590	07/23/2007	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			KURTZ, BENJAMIN M	
PO BOX 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			1723	
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/23/2007		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/765,962	GIESEL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Benjamin Kurtz	1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2,3,5-20 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) 2,3 and 16-18 is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 5-15,19,20 and 22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the sedimentation surfaces". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For examination purposes the structured foil is assumed to have sedimentation surfaces.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al. US 5 700 378.

Regarding claim 22, Lee teaches an apparatus having a flow zone and a sedimentation zone arranged in a housing the housing comprising: an aperture for supply (56) an aperture for discharge (70), an inlet chamber (62) and passage chamber containing a separator (14) made of a plurality of layers of synthetic foil, an outlet chamber (18) and stands, the separator being a form body which can be stremed

through and includes several tight fitting layers of wound structured synthetic foil, the form body being fixed in the passage chamber, whereby the apparatus consists of recyclable synthetic material, the housing being sealed in a liquid proof manner except for the supply and discharge apertures (fig. 5).

Regarding claim 5-10, 14, 15, 19 and 20, Lee further teaches the structured synthetic foil is a structured foil and a plain foil that are arranged alternatingly (fig. 6d); the structured synthetic foil is a wound structured foil (fig. 6d); the layers of structured synthetic foil are tubular elements made of structured foil (fig. 6d); the structured synthetic foil provides continuous longitudinal structures as seen in the flow direction (fig. 6d); the structured synthetic foil provides a plisse structure consisting of triangles (fig. 6d); the structured synthetic foil provides honeycombed structures (fig. 6d); the uppermost position of the passage chamber above the separator, a vent channel (66) is arranged which has a connection to the outlet in the outlet chamber (fig. 5); the outlet provides a flow regulator (72) (fig. 5); the cross-sectional area of the separator is round, oval or square (fig. 6b-6d, col. 4, lines 66-67); and the cross-sectional area of the housing is square (fig. 4).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 22, 5-13, 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernryd WO 98/46324 in view of Lee '378.

Regarding claim 22, Ernryd teaches an apparatus for separating amalgam from dental sewage the apparatus having a flow zone and a sedimentation zone arranged in a housing (1) the housing comprising: an aperture (2) for sewage supply, an aperture (3) for sewage discharge, an inlet chamber (4), a passage chamber containing a separator (10) made of a plurality of layers of synthetic foil, an outlet chamber, and stands, the separator being a form body which can be streamed through and includes several tight fitting layers of structured synthetic foil, the form body being fixed in the passage chamber, whereby the apparatus consists of recyclable synthetic material, and the housing is sealed in a liquid-proof manner except for the sewage supply and discharge apertures (fig. 1, page 2, lines 15-28). Ernryd does not teach the separator including layers of wound structured synthetic foil. Lee teaches a separator (14) being a form body, which can be streamed through and includes several tight fitting layers of wound structured synthetic foil (40) (fig. 6d). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the separator structure of Lee because it efficiently separates difficult to separate particles (col. 2, lines 17-18).

Regarding claims 5-7 and 9, Lee further teaches the separator (14) having element (16) formed of structured foil (40) having a plisse structure consisting of triangles where a structured foil and a plain foil are arranged alternatingly, is a wound structure, and is a tubular element made of structured foil (fig. 6d). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the

separator structure of Lee because it efficiently separates difficult to separate particles (col. 2, lines 17-18).

Regarding claims 8, 10-13, and 15, Ernryd further teaches the structured synthetic foil provides continuous longitudinal structures as seen in the flow direction of the sewage (fig. 1); the structured synthetic foil provides lamellar (thin plate) structures (fig. 1); the sedimentation surfaces of the structured foil are roughened by the addition of bumps (page 2, lines 15-28); a perforated plate 5 is arranged between the inlet chamber and the passage chamber, the holes provide sinkings on the side that faces the flow (fig. 1); the inlet chamber provides a flow guidance element (5) that is arranged in the upper area of the inlet chamber (fig. 1); and the sewage outlet provides a flow regulator (17).

Regarding claims 19 and 20, Ernryd further teaches a cross-section of the separator and of the housing but does not teach a particular cross-section area for either the separator or the housing. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the separator or the housing of Ernryd having the cross sectional area being round, oval or square because it has been held to be the configuration of an invention was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular configuration of the claimed invention is significant. *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ernryd '324 in view of Lee '378 as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Kopp US 1

902 171. Ernryd in view of Lee teaches the apparatus of claim 22 but does not teach a vent channel being arranged in connection to the sewage outlet. Kopp teaches an apparatus having a housing comprising an inlet chamber (2), a passage chamber (3) containing a separator (13), and an outlet chamber (4), wherein in the uppermost position of the passage chamber above the separator a vent channel (18) is arranged which has a connection to the sewage outlet (19) in the outlet chamber (fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the vent channel of Kopp to facilitate the flow of sewage in the event the separator become clogged (pg. 2, lines 38-47).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2-3 and 16-18 are allowed. Claim 2, as rewritten in independent form, contains the limitation of the apparatus having hollow stands where the hollow stands contain a pressure chamber combined with pressure sensors. Ernryd (324) teaches the apparatus but does not teach hollow stands having a pressure chamber or a pressure sensor. Herbert DE 4 243,239 teaches an apparatus having stands (at the bottom of the containers) combined with pressure sensors (12, 26) but does not teach the stands being hollow or the stands containing a pressure chamber. The combination of a hollow stand with a pressure chamber distinguishes over the prior art and is therefor allowable.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 4/48/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has argued that Lee '378 does not teach a wound structured foil.

Lee teaches a wound structured foil as depicted in figure 6d where corrugated layers of foil are wound around one another.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin Kurtz whose telephone number is 571-272-8211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on 571-272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Benjamin Kurtz
Patent Examiner 1723
7/13/07



KRISHNAN MENON
PRIMARY EXAMINER